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# CORNELL LAW QUARTERLY

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## THE CORNELL LAW SCHOOL

Acceleration of the whole educational process seems to be demanded as a part of a complete war-time program, and is recently being encouraged by public authorities. The process of acceleration started last year in a few schools of graduate education the majority of whose students were over twenty-one and subject to service in the armed forces. It was an attempt to help such students compensate for the time that would be devoted to such service and to reach their goal of professional practice without avoidable delay. Since December 7th, accelerated programs have been adopted generally by undergraduate as well as graduate institutions, and are even talked of for high school instruction. Acceleration, requiring the surrender of the long summer vacation, is not yet popular with young men, but the expediency of it is bound to become more apparent to them.

The Cornell Law School was among the first institutions to offer the possibility of a telescoped course. In the summer of 1941, it scheduled a summer session equivalent to one-third of a year, and it divided the present academic year into three terms instead of two. In consequence, a large portion of the present third year class will graduate in March instead of May of this year, and some members of the second year class will graduate in September, 1942, instead of May, 1943.

Recently, the New York Court of Appeals ruled that a three-year course of instruction at an approved full-time law school shall consist of ninety rather than ninety-six weeks. This ruling came in response to a recommendation of the New York State Joint Conference on Legal Education, and is for the purpose of enabling law schools to condense the regular program of instruction into two calendar years.

To take advantage of this possibility the faculty has voted to accept beginning students in February and June as well as September; to offer a summer session of fifteen weeks, equivalent to a half year, and to return to an academic year divided into two rather than three terms. By attending two summer sessions, a student can condense the work of three academic years into two calendar years.

The Law School announced last spring a change in entrance requirements which became effective with the opening of the present year and which will remain in force for the duration of the emergency. An A.B. degree is no longer required, but students who have completed three-fourths of the work toward the degree at an approved college will be eligible to apply for admission to the first year class. The practice of selective admission under which

admission is denied to students who, it seems clear, would not meet the standards for graduation, will be continued in operation. A student admitted from colleges other than Cornell may obtain his LL.B. degree in a total of five years at college and law school. A student admitted from the College of Arts and Sciences at Cornell may, by exercising the privilege of registering in the Law School in his senior year in Arts, obtain both the A.B. and LL.B. degrees in that length of time. If he takes advantage of the accelerated program of the College of Arts and Sciences, he may obtain both degrees in even less time.

It will, of course, be possible for any student to follow the usual course and pursue the work for the degree in three academic years, or to shorten it one-half year by attending one summer session.